

Fact Sheet



What is a STEMI Heart Attack:

Throughout the United States each year, nearly 931,000 people suffer heart attacks. About 250,000 of those patients suffer a severe type of heart attack (an ST-elevated myocardial infarction, or STEMI) caused by the sudden, total blockage of a coronary artery. According to the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services and the Montana Hospital Association, 1799 people were hospitalized in Montana for acute heart attack in 2012, and of those, 777 were STEMIs.

A STEMI carries a substantial risk of death and disability and calls for a quick response on many fronts. It can be quickly recognized using a 12-lead electrocardiogram (ECG or EKG); unfortunately, not all EMS vehicles responding to 9-1-1 calls are equipped with 12-lead ECGs. In most facilities, the availability of ideal treatment – 24/7, 365 days of the year – is limited, creating the need for patient transfer and resulting in more delays.

What is *Mission: Lifeline*:

Mission: Lifeline focuses on saving lives by increasing the number of patients who are rapidly transported to hospitals capable of opening the blocked coronary artery. The most effective treatment is PCI (percutaneous coronary intervention), also referred to as heart catheterization or angioplasty. If PCI is not an option, the next line of treatment is the use of fibrinolytic therapy (clot-busting drugs). Currently, 30% of STEMI patients do not receive any therapy. Many more do not receive therapy within the 90-minute timeframe recommended by the scientific guidelines.

The Goal:

Through *Mission: Lifeline*, we will create and help existing statewide system of care to improve the quality of care and outcomes for every STEMI patient. Plans are being developed that provide pre-hospital identification of STEMI-type heart attacks, alert the nearest, most appropriate hospital and activate the catheterization lab to treat the patient immediately upon arrival.

The Tactics:

Healthcare and community partners are working to develop a regional STEMI system of care where every patient receives the best guideline directed treatment. Lives are saved by forming coordinated systems of care and treating patients within the acceptable timeframes.

Mission: Lifeline will provide/facilitate:

- ♥ Field 12-lead ECG unit in every ambulance
- ♥ Ongoing training and education of EMS and hospital personnel
- ♥ Ongoing clinical education and sharing of best practices
- ♥ Protocols, policies and criteria for STEMI-receiving and referring hospitals and EMS
- ♥ System-wide data tool for quality measurement and improvement
- ♥ Fully engaged stakeholder group comprised of EMS, emergency medicine, cardiology, quality improvement and hospital administration
- ♥ Policy makers and health insurance providers engaged in support of this systems change
- ♥ Public education and increased awareness of signs, symptoms and the importance of dialing 9-1-1